

Montgomery In Focus

# Nancy Floreen

July 2009



## Four Master Plans Coming Up

After a bit of a hiatus from master plan revisions, we now have four of them lined up for approval. Master plans serve as vision statements for our communities' growth over the next 30 years, and they include zoning recommendations, future transportation plans, parks and green space. We revise them about every 20 years or as circumstances change, although we sometimes review smaller areas called sector plans more frequently. We take our master plans very seriously here, and we use them as a guide for all of our land use decision-making.

Once approved by the Planning Board, a plan goes to the Council's Planning, Housing and Economic Development Committee (PHED) and then on to the full Council. We're currently considering the Germantown Sector Plan and expect to complete it this month. For the Gaithersburg West Master Plan, we'll hold a public hearing on September 15, followed by PHED work sessions through October and Council action in December. Then we'll take up the White Flint Sector Plan with a public hearing on November 6, PHED work sessions through January and final action in February. Finally, we'll look at the Kensington Sector Plan with a public hearing in

January, PHED work sessions in February and action in March. To get Council agendas by e-mail visit e-Subscription at [www.montgomerycountymd.gov](http://www.montgomerycountymd.gov).

## Fast Fact

Regional highway congestion levels and estimated miles of travel have dropped for the first time since 1993 when measurements were first taken, according to the National Capital Region Transportation Planning Board's triennial Freeway Congestion Report. The 3.1 percent decrease is consistent with nationwide trends. The change could be attributed to a number of factors, including the period of unprecedented high gas prices along with the onset of the economic downturn.

## Testimony to SHA on Corridor Cities Transitway

Thank you, everyone who attended the June public hearings for the I-270/US 15 Multi-Modal Corridor Study (which includes the Corridor Cities Transitway). Your advocacy on these transportation and transit priorities makes a difference, and it's not too late to weigh in. Visit the State Highway Administration's Web site for detailed information. For your reference, here's the testimony I presented. Let me know what you think by commenting on my blog at <https://nancyfloreen.blogspot.com>.

*Good evening and thank you for giving me the opportunity to speak. My name is Nancy Floreen, and I am an at-large member of the Montgomery County Council. I also serve as the chair of the Council's Transportation, Infrastructure, Energy and Environment Committee. In that role I have been committed to and continue to be committed to*



We're considering the Germantown Sector Plan now.



Council will consider CCT in July.

*making sure Montgomery County has the best possible transportation infrastructure.*

*As an elected official, I know how challenging it is to meet current and future demands, and I appreciate the hard work that has gone into the Multi-Modal Corridor Study. The County Council will take up the details of the study and make its specific recommendations in July after the Planning Board completes its analysis.*

*Today I want to emphasize the Council's overarching dedication to improving our transportation options. In particular, the Council has ranked the Corridor Cities Transitway, along with the Purple Line, as its top transit priorities. Adding HOV lanes on I-270 is also a very high priority.*

*I have long believed that providing the appropriate transportation infrastructure is one of government's most basic jobs. For the Upcounty, that means supporting our growing biotechnology industry, the emerging Germantown Employment Corridor, and the ongoing build-out of Clarksburg. There's no question that the Upcounty needs improvements to its roadways as well as new transit.*

*It is not just the Upcounty that will benefit, though. Our proximity to the nation's capital provides us with*

*invaluable opportunities not just for cultural and educational connections, but especially for the entire County's economic vitality. We can't afford to have the buck stop in gridlock on I-270. Traffic on this highway is intolerable and getting worse.*

*Additionally, Montgomery County, along with many other counties across the country, has pledged to reduce emissions that cause global warming 80 percent by 2050. To do that, we need to reduce vehicle miles traveled and spend less time idling in traffic. That's good not just for the environment but for our quality of life too. What's more, Metro's dramatically increased ridership numbers indicate that commuters are hungry for transit options.*

*The proposed I-270/US 15 Highway and Transit Improvements will go a long way toward meeting these goals. That's why I enthusiastically support the broad concepts of this plan, and I look forward to conducting in-depth analysis after hearing from our residents about what the plan means to them.*

## Green Tip of the Month

Celebrate our agricultural heritage, promote local farms and indulge in seasonally fresh food during the 20th Annual Farm Tour and Harvest Sale. Thirteen farms will participate this year on Saturday, July 25, and nine will reopen for a second day on Sunday, July 26. In addition to selling fresh fruits, vegetables, flowers, plants and other local products, several farms will have hayrides, pony rides, music, demonstrations and other fun and educational activities for all ages.

## Tunnel Talk With Jed Millard

*Jed says:* June 22nd was just another Monday for evening commuters on Metro's Red Line until disaster struck. While WMATA and other agencies work to pinpoint the cause of this accident, I'm taking things in perspective. If this had occurred on the western side of the Red Line, I personally could have been involved as any regular rider could have. Undeterred, I'm going to slow down and take a moment to reflect on the accident and appreciate what we have: a top-notch transit system.

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